

# Leadership Owensboro taking nominations for 2027

## Must be submitted by July 3

BY KEITH LAWRENCE  
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Back in 1981, what's now the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce announced a new program called "Leadership Owensboro."

The charter class had 30 members.

The program was so successful that the Chamber is taking applications this summer for its 45th class.

"Strong communities need strong leaders and Leadership Owensboro helps cultivate the people who will shape the future of the Greater Owensboro

region," said Julia Kimbrell Brooks, director of talent programs for the Chamber.

She said, "We are excited to bring together the Class of 2027 and welcome a diverse group of individuals who are ready to grow, connect and lead."

Leadership Owensboro is described as a "premier talent development program designed to educate, engage, and empower emerging and established leaders throughout the Greater Owensboro region."

It helps participants

develop "a deeper understanding of the opportunities, challenges and resources that shape our community," the chamber says.

Topics studied include economic development, education, healthcare, government, justice, philanthropy, human services and the arts.

Brooks said participants are selected through a competitive application process and take part in monthly sessions from September through May.

Nomination packets are available on the Chamber website — chamber.owensboro.com.

They must be submit-

ted to Vice President Kitty Jones at kjones@owensboro.com no later than July 3.

Applications will be sent to all nominees on July 6, and completed applications must be submitted by July 31.

The class begins with a mandatory overnight retreat September 17-18.

Members will participate in monthly programs through June 2027.

Class members will also complete assignments and engage in community meetings and events.

Keith Lawrence,  
klawrence@messenger-inquirer.com

## GAS

FROM PAGE A1

"We all know that people were complaining for years, 'Why don't you do something about that?' and now we have," Mayor Pro Tem Bob Glenn said.

Commissioner Jeff Sanford said he frequently receives questions about the property.

"People want to see something happening there," Sanford said.

Sanford said development projects take time and that the city was acting to ensure the property is maintained.

"I think the general public wants their town to be nice, neat and clean," Sanford said. "We have to listen to them, and that's what we'll do."

As private property, the city has no authority over how the site is developed.

Watson said that when he recently spoke with Hayden, they did not discuss the Texas Gas property.

"I hope they have a plan," Watson said. "They typically do."

Watson noted that Gulfstream Commercial Services has projects underway in Florida, Indianapolis and downtown Owensboro. The firm built the Home2 Suites by Hilton and is constructing an adjacent building that

will include apartments, a parking garage and retail space.

"Once they get downtown finished, (the Texas Gas property) could be their No. 1 project," Watson said.

Watson and several commissioners said the property would be well suited for housing. Watson said he has seen neighborhood designs in Bowling Green that could work on the site.

"We need more housing, and that would be a neat thing to do," Watson said.

Later, Watson added, "When you have a committed developer in your community, it's a little difficult to steer them where we want them to go in the community versus where they understand they need to go as a company."

Commissioner Sharon NeSmith said she has heard various ideas from residents for the property, including converting the former Texas Gas building into apartments or housing for the homeless.

The city would not invest taxpayer dollars in a project at the site, NeSmith said.

"Unfortunately, all of those ideas require someone wanting to invest," she said.

With continued development along South Frederica Street, NeSmith said she would like to see a project that adds to the city's tax base and provides quality

jobs.

"An ideal business is one that would provide good-paying jobs," she said.

NeSmith also said she would support housing on the property.

"I would love to see affordable housing going in there," NeSmith said. "The property does lend itself to residential living."

Regarding the structure itself, NeSmith said the building could be sold to a company seeking a site, and that the existing steel framework could provide a head start on construction if it is determined to be structurally sound.

"It needs to come down, or it needs to become something," NeSmith said.

"It could be a great apartment space. It could be a great retail space," she added. "It needs to be something that enhances the area."

Glenn said, "Ultimately, everyone would like to see the property developed."

How the site is developed will be determined by Gulfstream officials, he said.

"It would strike me that the building is a lot like the Tower Inn. It's like the Executive Inn near its death knell," Glenn said. "The best alternative for Hayden and his colleagues would be to tear it down."

"I think trying to rehabilitate the Texas Gas building in its current state would be very expensive and not

a very productive venture," Glenn said.

Commissioner Curtis Maglinger said the city is "not in the development business," but that he would like to see housing on the site.

"With it being private property, the developer and the market will help predict what we need there," Maglinger said. "Listening to the community, one of the biggest needs would be creating some affordable housing."

"That's a perfect location," he added.

Maglinger said he was uncertain whether the existing structure could be reused but would support affordable housing if it remains.

"Otherwise, tear it down and make room for affordable housing," Maglinger said.

Sanford said he also would like to see housing on the property.

"I would love to see some housing through there," Sanford said, noting the site is adjacent to the Town and Country neighborhoods.

"I want to see the site developed," Sanford said. "Whether they tear it down or not is their decision."

Sanford emphasized that the city did not single out the property for a citation.

"I don't think it will be the only one that will be in violation," Sanford said.

## POOL

FROM PAGE A1

Pool to everyone in the city.

"Part of our mission with Parks and Recreation is to ensure access to all people regardless of

socio-economic background and regardless of where you live in town," said Bodenheimer. "A lack of transportation should not mean that a child goes throughout the summer without being able to swim."

Weaver, who lives in the area, agrees that having a well maintained, clean and safe community pool is a

benefit to those that live nearby.

"It's really nice for it to be back open," Weaver said with a smile.

For information on upcoming events at Cravens Pool visit owensboroparks.org.

Kaden Pitt, kpitt@messenger-inquirer.com

## BATTERY

FROM PAGE A1

it's going to affect us economically," Chris Castlen said. "But we need to be educated on the effects of anything that's going to happen in our community. You can argue the economic development piece, but if you make a decision that has a negative effect on your community, that affects it either by the noise or by something visual, or by any type of chemicals or whatever it is that are the concerns of people."

"Those are things that are not quick and easy fixes if we screw them up."

While Central County Commissioner Larry Conder said he understands the need to gather information, he fears the optics it sends to the business community.

"Whenever you continue to have moratoriums — and I understand the reason why you do — but get whatever you are not getting together, all of the information necessary, to Owensboro Planning & Zoning to regulate those businesses," Conder said.

"That's a little concerning, because there's not certainty for another business to look at our community, and they say 'What are the rules I'm playing by if you don't have those established?' They're kind of scratching their head, wondering, 'Okay, I'd love to come there, but I don't know what the rules are.'"

"So when is that work going to be done, and who is really responsible for it? Are we working real closely with (planning and zoning) and even other communities as to what they have done, and what is the timing to get all that finished?" East Daviess County Commissioner Janie Marksberry said she hasn't been part of any discussions about the ordinance, and that she didn't know "anything about it until I received a memo from legal stating it was going to be on the agenda."

However, Marksberry said she had previously encouraged the action.

"I had asked the judge to do this along with the data centers," she said. "But I did not hear any more from him."

Chris Castlen said he agrees with Conder that

moratoriums create "another layer of difficulty" in bringing some businesses or organizations to the county.

But he noted it doesn't have to stop those conversations.

"We'll still continue to try work with any type of business or organization that sees opportunities in our community and would be willing to work with us," Chris Castlen said. "If we are the right place for some type of or data center or battery place or something like that, if we have something that geographically makes us a better fit than other places, we're still open to conversation, although it's not as likely that we get them. But there's a lot of unanswered questions that we would need answers to."

"There's very important things we need answers to that affect the future of our community."

Charlie Castlen said the ordinance is not anti-business, but simply being prudent for the future of Daviess County.

"These things, whether they're data centers or wind when farms, the battery places, or even the solar, they all seem to be

on mega-fast track right now, and and there are things that our community hasn't given any thought to," he said. "So we absolutely need to put a pause so that we can do some research, we can get some rules in place, and we'll be protective for our communities."

## Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's lottery numbers:

- Kentucky**
- Midday Pick 3:** 7-8-7
- Midday Pick 4:** 2-9-1-1
- Evening Pick 3:** 7-2-8
- Evening Pick 4:** 9-1-2-3
- Cash Ball 225:** 4-11-26-34;
- The Cash Ball was 25
- Millionaire For Life:** 9-20-25-31-39
- The Millionaire Ball was 4
- Indiana**
- Midday Daily 3:** 4-3-9
- Super Ball was 6
- Midday Daily 4:** 4-2-6-6
- Super Ball was 6
- Evening Daily 3:** 7-5-2
- Super Ball was 5
- Evening Daily 4:** 7-0-9-6
- Super Ball was 5
- Cash 5:** 9-10-15-26-42
- Lotto:** 9-14-17-30-43-45
- Powerball:** 12-31-38-60-66;
- The Powerball was 14
- The Power Play was 2

## Agenda

### Daviess Fiscal Court

Daviess County Fiscal Court will meet at 5 p.m. Thursday at the Daviess County Courthouse.

The agenda includes the following items:

- Proclaim June 15, 2026 as World Edler Abuse Awareness Day
- 2. Consideration for Approval:

- Consider approving minutes of May 28, 2026, Daviess County Fiscal Court meeting
- Consider approving all claims for all departments

- Consider approving budget transfers for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026
- Consider approving salary schedule for Fiscal Year 2026/2027
- Consider approving order of allowance to the Board of Assessment Appeals

- Consider approving Daviess County Administrative Code effective July 1, 2026
- Consider approving Resolution 14-2026: Kentucky Product Development Initiative (KPDII) Grant: county passthrough to the City of Owensboro
- Consider approving second reading of KOC A.110 (2026) 02-2026: Fiscal Year 2026/2027 annual budget

- Consider approving contract with Green River District Health Department for employee assessments and vaccinations
- Consider approving memorandum of agreement between the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, Office of the Secretary, Office of Drug Control Policy, and Daviess County Fiscal Court to establish an agreement for the Daviess County KY-ASAP Local Board for Opioid Harm Reduction

- Consider approving security services agreements through the Daviess County Sheriff's Office: 08-2026 effective May 30, 2026; 09-2026 effective June 3, 2026

- Consider awarding Bid No. 2526-73: Yellow Creek Park picnic shelter project (Parks)
- Consider awarding Bid No. 2526-74: Panther Creek Park picnic shelter project (Parks)

- Consider appointing Laina Strehl (Claude Bacon SPT) to the Daviess County Convention & Visitor's Bureau (CVB) board (Citizen) effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029

- Consider reappointing Sunny Patel (\$1.5T) to the Daviess County Convention & Visitor's Bureau (CVB) board (Local Hotel/Motel Association) effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029
- Consider promoting Jade Garner to human resources manager effective July 1, 2026
- Consider hiring Christopher Warfield as truck driver I effective June 7, 2026
- Consider accepting the retirement resignation of Mike Hamilton effective July 31, 2026
- Consider accepting the retirement resignation of Jim Rhinerson effective July 31, 2026
- Consider first reading of KOC 921.691 (2026) 04-2026: An ordinance imposing a moratorium on the acceptance and processing of applications related to battery energy storage systems (BESS) and wind energy conversion systems (WECS)
- Consider first reading of KOC 620.57 (2026) 05-2026: An ordinance adopting amended guidelines for accepting roads into the Daviess County road, bridge and street system
- Consider other business to be brought before the Daviess County Fiscal Court
- Public comments
- Comments by Daviess County Fiscal Court

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